**FPIs in NER**

2179. SHRI KHEKIHO ZHIMOMI: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of food processing units established by the Central Government in the Central sector in the North Eastern Region, State-wise with unit-wise details showing capital invested, employment generated, production statistics, *etc.*;

(b) the number of such units in these States with the same details for units established by the State Governments under Central funding;

(c) the number of such units in the States with the same details for units established in private sector and cooperative sector and joint sector (Central and State Governments); and

(d) the investment made by the Ministry in Nagaland in fruit processing sector, year-wise, for the past five years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAI) : (a) to (d) Ministry of Food Processing Industries does not establish food processing units in the states. However, the Ministry of Food Processing Industries extends financial assistance in the form of grant-in-aid to implementing agencies/entrepreneurs @ 25% of the cost of Plant and Machinery and Technical Civil Works subject to a maximum of Rs. 50 lakhs in general areas or 33.33% subject to a maximum of Rs. 75 lakhs in Difficult areas under the Scheme of Setting up/Modernization/Expansion of food processing industries. The data on Food Processing Industries/units and details of Investment and Production made in the Industries in the country, including that of Nagaland is not centrally maintained. The details of assistance provided by the Ministry of Food Processing Industries under the Scheme of Setting up/Modernization/Expansion of food processing industries in Nagaland in fruit processing sector, year-wise during the last five years are as under:—

| Year | Financial Assistance (Rs. in lakhs) |
|---|---|
| 2004-05 | Nil |
| 2005-06 | Nil |
| 2006-07 | 68.94 |
| 2007-08 | Nil |
| 2008-09 | 58.99 |

**Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan**

2180. DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government has decided recently to launch the Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan in the country;

(b) if so, the details of the plans and the manner in which it is likely to be implemented;

(c) whether introduction of the Abhiyan is going to have any effect on the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) and (b) A centrally sponsored scheme for universalisation of access to and improvement of quality of education at secondary stage, titled Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan, has been formulated. The objective of the scheme is to make secondary education of good quality available, accessible and affordable to all young persons by ensuring a quality secondary school within a reasonable distance of every habitation, through either strengthening of existing schools or establishment of new schools. The scheme is to be implemented in partnership with State governments.

(c) and (d) The success of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) has created a surge in demand for secondary education and one of the objectives of the scheme is to meet this challenge by augmenting capacity and infrastructure in secondary schools. Thus the scheme will provide opportunity to students coming out of elementary schools, to complete secondary schooling.

**Enhancement of financial grant for Mid-day Meal Scheme**

2181. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the issue of price rise has created more problems for the Ministry, after the Public Accounts Committee suggesting to enhance financial grant for Mid-day Meal Scheme under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, in view of rising price index;

(b) whether one of its five recommendations pertains to national programme of Nutritional Support to Primary Education scheme, popularly know as Mid-day Meal Scheme;

(c) if so, what are other main recommendations made and to what extent these have been implemented; and

(d) to what extent it has helped in improving programmes of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) At the time of extension of Mid-Day Meal Scheme to the upper primary stage, a decision to link the cost of cooking to Inflation Adjusted Index (Consumer Price Index) and assess cooking cost, both for primary and upper primary, every two years beginning 2008-09, was taken. Accordingly, with effect from 1.4.2008, the Central share of cooking cost was raised from Rs. 1.50 to Rs. 1.58 per child per working day for primary and from Rs.2.00 to Rs. 2.10 per child per school working day for upper primary. In case of North-Eastern (NER) States, including Sikkim, the Central share of cooking cast has been raised from Rs. 1.80 to Rs. 1.89 per child per school day at primary stage and from Rs.2.30 to Rs.2.42 per child per school working day at upper primary stage. Some States/UTs are spending more than their minimum mandatory contribution for betterment of mid-day meal which is 20 paisa per child per school day for NER States including Sikkim and 50 paisa per child per school day in case of other States/UTs.